

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 12-21 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended herewith, and Claims 2, 3, 5, 11 and 22-26 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Munro et al. (US 4,945,429). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, such claim has been amended to include features previously recited in objected to Claim 3 (which is thus being cancelled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer). As objected to Claim 3 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that is in effect what has been done with this amendment to Claim 1, it is shown that amended Claim 1 is now allowable for similar reasons to that of objected to Claim 3.

Applicants traverse the rejection of dependent Claims 4 and 7 for reasons given above with respect to Claim 1 (of which Claims 4 and 7 depend upon).

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) has been overcome.

II. Allowance of Claims

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowance of Claims 8-10 and 12-21.

III. Objection to Claims

The Examiner stated that Claims 3 and 6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Claim 6 has been rewritten accordingly to overcome this objection. Claim 3 is being cancelled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer as its features have been added herewith to Claim 1.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited reference and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: _____

Respectfully submitted,

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